

## REMARKS

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment indicated that applicants inadvertently omitted the status of claims 1-19, which were canceled in the Preliminary Amendment filed August 26, 2002. Applicants submit herewith the "Amendments to the Claims" section of the Response filed December 22, 2003, which now includes the appropriate status identifier for claims 1-19.

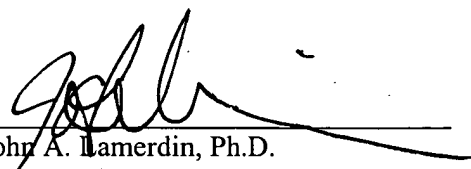
Additionally, applicants note that claims 20-41 were added in the August 26, 2002 Preliminary Amendment. In the December 22, 2003 amendment the unamended claims were inadvertently given the status identifier "Original." In order to be consistent with 37 C.F.R. §121, applicants have indicated the status of these claims as "Previously presented" in the present Response, where applicable.

Applicants request that the "Amendments to the Claims" section of the Amendment filed on December 22, 2003 be replaced with the "Amendments to the Claims" section presented in the instant Response. Applicants submit that the Amendment filed December 22, 2003 is now is fully compliant with 37 C.F.R. §121.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Office has had an opportunity to review the instant paper, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters.

Although it is believed no fee associated with the filing of the present correspondence is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account Number 19-3880. Furthermore, if any extension of time is required, such extension is hereby petitioned for, and it is requested that any fee due for said extension be charged to the above-stated Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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